


*Black Is...*





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## Preface

This 1983 edition of **Black Is...** heralds the Boston Public Library's traditional celebration of Black History Month in February of each year. The selective list was compiled by a committee—Francina Gelzer, Chairperson, Lois Henry, Olive Knight and Elaine McLean.





## **Black Expression**

### **Beale Black & Blue**

Margaret McKee and Fred Chisenhall

The rise, heyday and fall of “Black America’s Main Street” are recalled through the eyes of the blues musicians who revered Beale Street.

### **Big Road Blues: Tradition and Creativity in the Folk Blues**

David Evans

The flexibility of each song of the folk blues singer is attributed to the traditional techniques of learning and composing the blues and the improvisation of the singer.

### **Comfort Clothes: Easy to Make and Easy to Wear West African Garments**

Chris Rex

Step-by-step instructions for traditional and creative design of West African clothes include diagrams, measurement charts, dyeing methods and other helpful hints.

### **Mother of the Blues: A Study of Ma Rainey**

Sandra R. Lieb

This study of America’s first female blues singer attributes her songs, style and success to the black folk culture.

### **Remembering Song: Encounters With the New Orleans Tradition**

Frederick Turner

A re-creation of the early jazz period.

# **Blacks Abroad**

## **Ancient African Religion and the African-American Church**

Ulysses Duke Jenkins

Did the spirituals really venerate the old Yoruba gods rather than the Christ of the new religion?

## **Black Child**

Peter Magubane

A South African photojournalist captures, in words and pictures, the daily suffering of black children under the system of apartheid.

## **I Sought My Brother: An Afro-American Reunion**

S. Allen Counter and David L. Evans

In South America two black researchers "found" a "lost" tribe of escaped slaves who still lived an African culture.

## **Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman**

Marjorie Shostak

The life of one woman opens a fascinating window into this Southern African tribe.

## **The Riddle of Violence**

Kenneth Kuanda

Although believing in Christ and influenced by Gandhi, the Zambian president came to support a "just war" against racism in Africa.

## **Women Writers in Black Africa**

Lloyd W. Brown

Buchi Emecheta, as well as four other writers, is discussed seriously but readably.

# **Contemporary Issues**

## **Black and White Styles in Conflict**

Thomas Kochman

Recognition of cultural differences is the key to better interracial understanding.

## **Black Manager: Making It in the Corporate World**

Floyd Dickens, Jr. and Jacqueline B. Dickens

What are the rewards and problems of the black manager?

## **Markets and Minorities**

Thomas Sowell

What roles do the markets, non-market institutions and government play in the economic condition of minorities?

## **Women, Race & Class**

Angela Y. Davis

An enlightening analysis of the women's movement.

# **History**

## **Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment**

James H. Jones

In order to see what would happen if syphilis went untreated, the U.S. Public Health Service gave four hundred black men placebos instead of penicillin.

## **Black Pentecostalism: Southern Religion in an Urban World**

Arthur E. Paris

Three Boston Congregations of the Mount Calvary Holy Church of America, Inc. are shown to be a natural outgrowth of the political and religious climate after the Civil War.

## **The Black Power Revolt: A Collection of Essays**

Floyd B. Barbour

Black intellectuals, from Benjamin Banneker to Boston's Byron Rushing, trace the development of black power.

## **Ethnic America**

Thomas Sowell

This black conservative is sure to engender controversy as he argues against affirmative action, welfare and minimum wages.



**The F.B.I. and Martin Luther King, Jr. From  
"Solo" to Memphis**

David J. Garrow

The same meticulous research that uncovered the relentless F.B.I. campaign against King also exposes impropriety in his private life.

**Gifts of Power: the Writings of Rebecca Jackson,  
Black Visionary, Shaker Eldress**

Jean McMahon Humez

A free, black female founded a Philadelphia Shaker Community in 1857.

**Hearth & Home: Preserving a People's Culture**

George W. McDaniel

How did the homes of free tenant farmers differ from the homes of slaves?

**Let the Trumpet Sound: The Life of Martin  
Luther King, Jr.**

Stephen B. Oates

The most comprehensive biography of King to date focuses on the public leadership of a great movement.

**Slavery and Freedom**

Willie Lee Rose

An illuminating study of the changing nature of slavery from the seventeenth century to its end.

**Some Time Ago: A Historical Portrait of Black  
Americans, 1850-1950**

Chester Higgins, Jr. and Orde Coombs

Black history enters a new dimension in this collection of rare early photographs from all over the country.

**The Struggle for Black Equality, 1954-1980**

A vivid portrayal of the major heroes and events of this turbulent era.

**There Is A River**

Vincent Harding

Persistent resistance to injustice, not passive acceptance, marked the history of Blacks in America.



## **This Was Harlem: A Cultural Portrait, 1900-1950**

Jervis Anderson

Style and elegance permeated Harlem even amidst the presence of poverty.

## **When Harlem Was in Vogue**

David Levering Lewis

An overview of the magical period of the Harlem Renaissance when “almost everything seemed possible.”

## **Personalities**

### **America What Are You to Me?**

Bishop R. Pryor

One man tells of his experiences as a Black in America.

### **Bob Marley: Soul Rebel—Natural Mystic**

Adria Boot and Vivien Goldman

The vibrant life and trials of the late reggae star from Jamaica.

### **A Fistful of Sugar: The Sugar Ray Leonard Story**

Alan Goldstein

A courageous and determined young man rises to the top of the boxing world.

### **George Washington Carver: Scientist and Symbol**

Linda O. McMurry

Biography of a scientific genius whose research revolutionized the agricultural economy of the South.

### **Hannibal**

Ernie Bradford

A young North African boy grows up to dominate European history.

### **A Man's Life**

Roger Wilkins

A black journalist struggles for an identity in a changing society.

### **Mr. October: The Reggie Jackson Story**

Maury Allen

Leadership and ability make Jackson a sports superstar.

### **Richard Pryor: This Cat's Got 9 Lives!**

Fred Robbins and David Ragan

Spotlights the famous comedian, both on and off stage, based on interviews with other famous people.

### **Rickey and Robinson**

Harvey Frommer

Jackie Robinson breaks the baseball color barrier with the help of Branch Rickey, general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

### **Standing Fast**

Roy Wilkins

Roy Wilkins' personal history is tied in with the development and changes in the NAACP and of the civil rights movement of the twentieth century.

### **Sweet Man: The Real Duke Ellington**

Don George

An intimate portrayal of a multi-faceted man is depicted through the memories of his friends.

### **With Head and Heart**

Howard Thurman

A black minister and educator whose spiritual commitment touched the lives of many people including the leaders of the civil rights movement.

## **Fiction**

### **Ah, But Your Land Is Beautiful**

Alan Paton

Contemporary South Africa influences the lives and spirits of white and non-white in their day-to-day experiences.

**Black Marshall**

Bill Burchardt

All the trappings of a western—cowboys, Indians, horses, saloons—and a United States Marshall.

**The Color Purple**

Alice Walker

Two sisters and their correspondence with each other and God bring the characters around them to life in this saga of joy and pain, humor and bitterness.

**Masseni**

Tidiane Dem

The story of a woman and her country, the Ivory Coast, in the early 1900's.

**The Original Colored House of David**

Martin Quigley

A seventeen-year-old white youngster joins a black baseball team in the 1920's.

**Sassafrass, Cypress and Indigo**

Ntozake Shange

Magic, love and art are woven into the lives of three black sisters and their mother.

**A Separate Development**

Christopher Hope

A young boy caught between the law and his emotions by the lunatic justice of apartheid.

**Shannon**

Gordon Parks

Two couples—one Irish and one Black—have their lives entwined in a tale of romance, vengeance, and tragedy.

**The Suns of Independence**

Ahmadou Kourouma

The end of a period in a fictional West African country is symbolized in Fama, sterile and last of a line of African princes.

### **The Sure Salvation**

John Hearne

A human drama is enacted aboard the slave ship, *The Sure Salvation*, becalmed in the middle of the Atlantic.

### **The Woman of Brewster Street**

Gloria Naylor

Seven black women in the ghetto share a common experience and eventually overcome trials together.

### **Youngblood**

John Oliver Killens

A chronicle of the lives of the Youngblood family and their friends in Georgia from the turn of the century to the Great Depression.



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